ACROSS / A20
Atienza won't allow logging's return to Samar

WORLD / A28
Bangladesh cyclone death toll reaches 2,000



SPORTS / A31
Federer wins fourth Masters Cup crown

BUSINESS / B2-2
Geologists, mining eng'rs leaving RP

METRO / A25
Marathon man dies before crossing finish line

Gov'ts, traders told: Get ready for one Asean market

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Monday, November 19, 2007 | 14 sections | Vol. 22 | No. 344 | P18

'Eavesdroppers' stalk media at coup hearing





GMA, Burma PM meet before summit

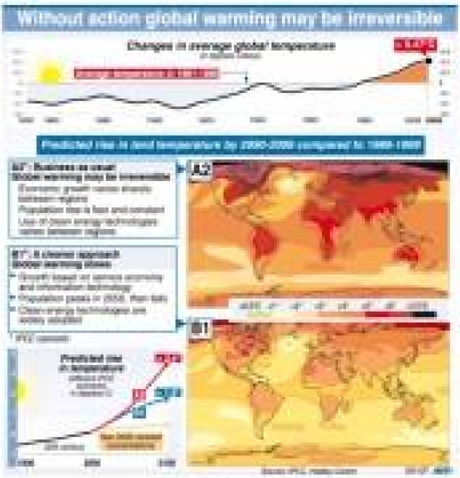
Blaming Abus was convenient for probers

ANALYSIS

Palace official clears Akbar's political foe

Cops to file murder raps vs 3 suspects

THREE ALLEGED ABU SAYYAF MEMBERS FACE murder charges today in connection with the bombing at the Batasang Pambansa complex that killed Basilan Rep. Wahab Akbar and three others, but a top Malacañang official all but cleared Akbar's political rival, Gerry Salapuddin, in the attack.



Environmentalists want more Asian action on global warming

Life just too cruel for Conde



Libre turns 6; family, lifestyle news up

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONT PAGE



EZ2: 16 28

SUERTRES: 7 9 7

7 6 2

SUPERLOTTO 6/49

13 13 27 31 34 37

₱105,810,975.00

Palace assures Moros on pacts

'Agreement on territory with MILF won't violate peace accord with MNLF'

WHAT'S INSIDE

■ **PSE WINS CASE** vs 15 former employees /A4

■ **MORE FORMER** Pinoys reacquiring citizenship /A10

Senate to probe peso's rise

Gov't suspends car imports at Subic



RP to send medical team to Bangladesh

THE PHILIPPINES WILL SEND A MEDical team to Bangladesh to help relief efforts after a powerful cyclone killed more than 1,800 people in that country, a presidential aide said on Sunday.

President Macapagal-Arroyo extended her "deepest sympathy and compassion to the people of Bangladesh" and ordered Health Secretary Francisco Duque to form the medical team, said Cerge Remonde, chief of the Presidential Management Staff.

Duque said the team—which would likely include five doctors, four nurses and a psychiatrist—could leave as early as Wednesday.

Bangladeshi officials said more than 1,800 people had died and the toll was likely to rise after Cyclone Sidr, carrying winds of up to 250 kilometers per hour, smashed tens of thousands of homes Thursday in the country's southwest and ruined crops just before the harvest season.

The Philippines, which is geographically in the path of many powerful cyclones in the Pacific Ocean, has had its share of devastation wrought by cyclones.

In December 2006, more than 1,000 people were killed or went missing after the Bicol region was struck by a typhoon and torrential rains that unleashed mudslides and volcanic debris that wiped out entire villages.

Today the entire village of [illegible] in [illegible] province lies under the mud that rolled down the mountain and buried more than 1,000 residents and visitors. *AP*

Stock exchange wins case vs former employees



The Daily Gospel





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GMA, Burmese prime minister meet before summit

Prepared in Cebu

Economic master plan

Filipino professionals



Commercial flight

Pressure on Asean

Gov'ts, traders told: Prepare for single Asean market

Like wedding ceremony

Skepticism

Short-term goals

US slowdown


Ang galing ng Pinoy ay nasa bagong
EXTRADERM AGE-DEFY Face Cream
Preventive Therapy
Regular Therapy
Advanced Therapy
Extraderm Age-Defy Face Cream
The new Extraderm Age-Defy Face Cream offers the price of youthful beauty within everyone's reach.
Extraderm takes anti-aging to the next level by going further than other brands, reducing even deep wrinkles and creases.
The combination of SPF 20 and anti-oxidants keeps skin protected from dust, pollutants and harmful UV rays.
It's time to join the ranks of real women getting real results from the power of Extraderm Age-Defy Face Cream.
Results you can see. Results you can believe.
Galing ng Pinoy!
Pinoy
Mula sa SPLASH
Another quality innovation from a truly world-class Filipino company.

Environmentalists want more action

Troubling

Intensifying pressure

Political reality

Libre turns 6 ...

Weddings, etc.

Singapore seeks scholars

THE SINGAPORE Embassy is accepting applications for the Singapore Scholarship for academic year 2008-09. The undergraduate scholarships awarded by the Singapore government are to the National University of Singapore, Nanyang Technological University and the Singapore Management University. Except for Medicine and Dentistry, all other disciplines are open to scholars.

Each grant is for three to four years, depending on the discipline, and covers tuition, living allowance of [illegible] (around [illegible]) per year and several others. Scholars will be selected on the basis of academic merit, leadership qualities and potential to contribute to Philippine development. They are expected to return to their homeland upon graduation.

Applications must be submitted on the prescribed form available at the Singapore Embassy at The Enterprise Center, [illegible] Ayala Ave., Makati City or downloaded from the website: [illegible]

More ex-Pinoys seeking dual citizenship

Ex-Lourdes principal dies at 64

Fears raised on fate of Asian crews

NAIROBI—Communication has been lost with a Comoros-flagged cargo ship seized by pirates off the coast of Somalia last month, raising fears for the crew's safety, a maritime monitoring group said Sunday.

The MV Al Marjan, with 23 mostly Asian crew members on board, was seized on Oct. 19 as it sailed to the port of Mogadishu from Dubai in the United Arab Emirates.

"We are worried that the ship has cut communication with the owner and the rest of the world," said Andrew Mwangura of the Kenyan branch of the Seafarers' Assistance Programme.

No negotiations

"This is the second week since it cut communication, which means there are no negotiations going on. This is a very bad indicator on the fate of the crew," Mwangura told Agence France-Presse.

The freighter is owned by Shahola Maritime of St. Vincent and the Grenadines but is operated by Dubai-based Shun Intermodal.

Mwangura explained that "cutting communication" between pirated vessels and the outside world in the past had been an indication that "something bad" had happened on board.

Mwangura said negotiations were also underway to free a Japanese tanker, the Golden Nori that was hijacked on Oct. 28 with 23 crew members from the Philippines, Burma (Myanmar) and South Korea. Their condition is unknown.

The vessel was sailing from Singapore to Israel when it was seized.

A million dollars

"I expect that the pirates will ask for ransom of more than a million dollars to free the tanker," he told AFP.

The Danish freighter, Danica White, was freed in August after nearly three months off the Somali coast after a $1.5 million ransom was paid.

The US Navy patrolling the Horn of Africa and Gulf of Aden has urged the pirates to abandon the vessels.

Rampant piracy off Somalia stopped in the second half of 2006 but resumed when an Islamist movement that had enforced a strict rule was ousted by Ethiopian and Somali transitional government troops at the end of the year.

Somalia lies at the mouth of the Red Sea on a major trade route between Asia and Europe via the Suez Canal. AFP

Opinion

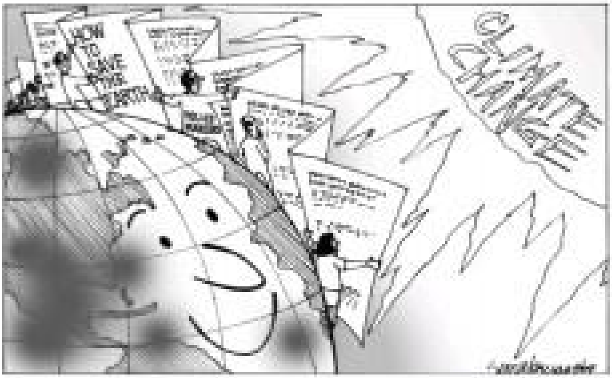
Gaseous statements

Editorial

Bad days

Foreign Comment

The Dallas Morning News



What is the 'fair market value' of land?

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

Terror

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

Fr. Pedro Arrupe, S.J.



SOUNDING BOARD

Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.

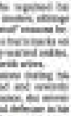
Luicito's amparo



KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Carlos Isagani T. Zarate

The future's bright



THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

The best hope for the nation



REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan



Dulce, a luminescent star

LETTERS

If NPC is apolitical, why GMA for special guest?

Obscure road signs, dangerous traffic hazard

Yes, lapses must be corrected, promptly



Blaming Abus was convenient for probers

Evidence

Public weariness

Anticommunist drive

Public clamor

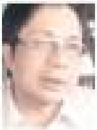
Solons support interfaith probe of blast

'Eavesdroppers' stalk media at coup hearing

Palace official clears Akbar's political foe



ERMITA



SALAPUDDIN

Life just too cruel for Conde

[illegible]

Irreversible

[illegible]

Slaughterhouse

[illegible]

Across the NATION



WAITING FOR ERAP

[illegible]

Renewed logging in Samar suspended

By TJ Burgonio

ENVIRONMENT SECRETARY LITO ATIENZA HAS ordered the suspension of a new permit issued by his predecessor to a big-time firm to resume logging in more than 50,000 hectares in Samar.

[illegible]

Davao road seen to help illegal loggers

CITY OF MATI—A [illegible]

[illegible]

NewsBriefs

3 die in Laguna digging site

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—[illegible]

Ex-Tagaytay councilor shot dead

[illegible]

Bus overturns; 12 people hurt

[illegible]

Bulacan remembers Gregorio del Pilar

[illegible]

AN OPEN LETTER TO

HER EXCELLENCY GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO TO ADDRESS THE PICOP RESOURCES INCORPORATED'S (PICOP) ABUSES AND ECONOMIC SABOTAGE FROM CONCERNED SURIGAONONS AND INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES



table top tree
₱999
pillar candles
table cloth
₱299-₱1,549
Window Collection
₱350
dragonfly tree ornament
₱219
snow star
₱339
throw pillows
₱119-₱249
ball ornament
₱129
scented candle
₱119-149
METRO
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Bonifacio, Global City
Great holiday decorating ideas and gift suggestions!
Holidays '07
Salad Bowl with Cradle and Servers Set
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Rubbermaid
₱89-₱299
mugs
₱49
Home Gallery
food keepers
₱89-₱199
12 pc. Dinnerware Set
₱349
Calphalon
₱9,099
baker collection
₱279-₱299
cheese dome
₱669
DEPARTMENT STORE & SUPERMARKET

'Climate change' experiment questioned



FAVORITE DELICACY
Josefin Ramirez shows the seaweeds he sells in Maslindan, Eastern Samar. The harvest is one of the favorite delicacies of visitors.

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—THE BUREAU OF FISHERIES and Aquatic Resources has withheld endorsement of a proposed experiment by an Australian firm to release 500 tons of urea near Panay Island.

Urea, a chemical fertilizer, is expected to stimulate the growth of phytoplankton that is hoped to reduce carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

Fisheries regional director Drusila Esther Bayate said she was concerned with the experiment's impact on marine life because of the big volume of urea to be dumped.

"Once it [urea] is there, it would be beyond our control," Bayate told the Inquirer in a telephone interview.

She said she has asked a team from the Sydney-based Ocean Nourishment Corp. (ONC) to submit a complete project proposal before she would consider endorsing the experiment to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

ONC's "ocean nourishment" project involves the release of 500 tons of urea granules into the Sulu and Celebes seas.

But environmental groups, including Greenpeace Southeast Asia and the Southeast Asia Regional Initiatives for Community Empowerment, have called for a stop to the plan until its viability and safety is guaranteed.

In a position paper, the groups questioned the scientific basis of the experiment, citing possible negative impacts on the environment, as well as marine and human life.

They urged the BFAR and the DENR to withhold approval of the project until all scientific issues and the legality of the project were resolved.

But a University of Philippines in the Visayas (UPV) based professor has defended the proposed study.

While caution should be undertaken in an experiment, the "ocean nourishment" project would be "calculated" and guided by protocols, according to Dr. Rodney Torres, former dean of the UPV College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences.

Torres said the project would be very beneficial if it succeeded.

However, the UPV, as a statement issued earlier, said the project could "pose a threat to the marine environment."

Torres denied reports that a ton of urea was released last month into the waters off Alaka or some in Antique.

"So far as I am aware, no experiment has been conducted yet. It is still just a proposal," he said in a telephone interview.

Torres admitted that he accompanied a team from ONC in conducting an inspection last month of the Panay Gulf, between Guimaras and Iloilo going to the southern part of Panay.

The team included two Americans, two Australians and a Korean, he said.

Dagupan radioman survives shooting

DAGUPAN CITY—A RADIO ANNOUNCER was shot and wounded by two motorcycle-riding men near his home along the De Venecia Highway here on Friday night, police said.

Allan Sison, 41, was hit twice in the chest and right armpit, according to city police chief Supt. Nicolas [illegible].

Sison was taken to the Dagupan City Doctors Center, where he underwent surgery. Doctors on Saturday said Sison was out of danger.

Policemen said Sison was talking to Lily Orapan, owner of a commercial stall near his house, when the two gunmen arrived at 11:00 p.m.

He said the back rider got off, pulled the gun aside before approaching Sison and shooting him with a .45 cal. pistol. The attackers fled toward nearby Calasiao town, about 5 kilometers from here.

Sison, locally known as "Bookie Boaz," has a program aired nightly over Love Radio, a station of Manila Broadcasting Corp. His program advises callers on relationships and accepts song requests and dedications.

Sison, in a statement to police on Saturday, said he could identify his attackers once he sees them again. He said the attack could not be work-related because his program did not deal with political commentaries.

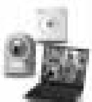
Police said this was the second time this year that Sison was attacked.

In April, Sison told police that he was shot while driving to the radio station. He was not hurt in that attack but a side mirror of his car was shattered.

Last month, Sison ran for barangay chair in Bonuan Boquig in Dagupan City but lost. *Gabriel Cardinoza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*







More Sports on A29-A32



Late SPORTS

Tugade's 34 powers Magnolia; TNT wins



MAGNOLIA'S Dondon Hontiveros foils Ginebra's Mark Caguioa.





A plus METRO

CA orders mayor to pay ₱1.6M to cement firm

THE COURT OF APPEALS HAS ORDERED MARIKINA MAYOR MA. Lourdes Fernando, who used to sit as chair of the board of BF Corporation, to settle her firm's debt with a cement company which arose from a transaction made 12 years ago.

[illegible]

Runner collapses, dies just before finish line

[illegible]

Suspected drug dealer's body found inside parked luxury car

No defensive wounds

Previous arrest



WASTE OF TAXPAYERS' MONEY

MetroBriefs

Gender-friendly schools cited

Did you know

Dog pound needed

Road unsafe

Metro Citizen's call

$300-M fund vs climate change

Oil firms lobby vs global warming

Baghdad's busy ambulance drivers catch their breath



A WOMAN walks past ambulances parked at the Health Ministry in Baghdad on Nov. 14.

Oil prices could hit $200/barrel

WorldBriefs

70 killed in Pakistan fighting

Ukraine blast kills 19

Rail strike in France on 5th day

23 militants dead in Afghanistan

30 bodies found in Baghdad

Ex-guerrilla claims Kosovo poll win

The WORLD

US urges Musharraf to end emergency



NEGROPONTE

Bangladesh cyclone death toll hits 2,000

BARGUNA—BANGLADESH SAID SUNDAY THE death toll from a massive cyclone hit 2,000, with that grim tally certain to rise as the impoverished country struggled to get aid to millions left homeless.



A FAMILY prepares food inside their cyclone-damaged home in Patuakhali, 172 km south of Bangladesh's capital on Saturday Nov. 17.







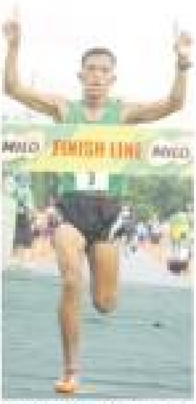
SPORTS



Sabal, Carreon top Milo Marathon

Technique wins it for Armyman

THE VETERAN sharpened his strategy with new ideas for the final battle.









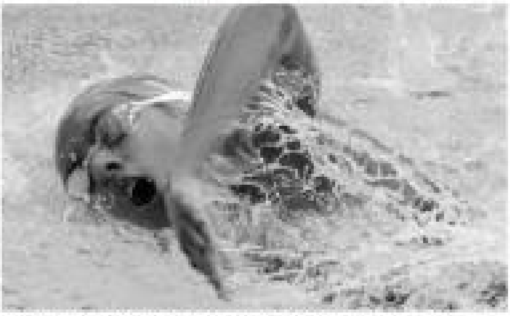




V-League: UST tossers trim La Salle

Spring five zaps Indonesians

Manila wraps it up in style



12TH MARHO BREEDERS CUP

Robust run by Macho Man

Pagulayan trips Gallego for Negros title



SPORTSWATCH

Champs League q'finals up today

80 fights in SJC derby today

P2M staked in Roligon derby

Norman Mailer, 84, had beer at the Big Dome

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad



Jimenez wins; Miñoza ties for 40th place

3 teams dispute I-Village golf title

Heat halt skid

D-Wade secures Miami victory

Mavericks 105, Grizzlies 101



Federer bags 4th Masters plum



ROGER Federer

Poulter takes Dunlop golf by two

Guzman decisions Soto

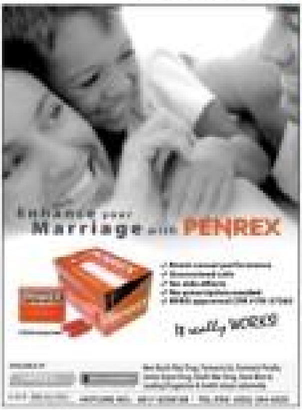
SPORTS



Pitcher powers Manila

By Marc Anthony Reyes

[illegible]







Riner upends Taiwanese for Holcim crown

By Marc Anthony Reyes

[illegible]



BUSINESS

Editor Raul O. Marcelo • Assistant Editor

Net 'hot money' inflows up to $274M in Oct.

BSP rate cut, rosy prospects boost investments

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES ATTRACTED $274 MILLION IN net foreign investments in local stocks, bonds and money markets in October, dwarfing the $35.8 million generated in September, due to the improved domestic and global investor sentiment.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. reported Friday that the resurgence of strong foreign portfolio inflows, also called "hot money" due to their volatile nature, brought the 10-month net total to $3.7 billion, or nearly double the $1.9 billion in net inflows for the same period last year.

"Several factors helped boost investor confidence during the month, including the Bangko Sentral's 25 basis-point reduction in policy rates, the upward adjustment in the International Monetary Fund's 2007 growth forecast for the Philippine economy to 6.3 percent from 5.8 percent in July, easing concerns about the US economy, and several reports of strong third-quarter corporate earnings," Tetangco said.

This developed as appetite for emerging market assets improved following the US Federal Reserve's steeper-than-expected half-a-percentage point cut in its benchmark interest rates in mid-September. The BSP's own interest rate cut on Oct. 4 also lured more investments to the local stock market.

On a gross basis, the BSP reported that foreign portfolio investments registered by major foreign custodian banks in October totaled $1.2 billion, 79 percent of which went to shares listed on the Philippine Stock Exchange.

The balance went to placements in peso-denominated government securities, primarily fixed rate treasury notes or FXTNs. These inflows exceeded capital repatriations of $985.2 million, which arose from divestments from PSE-listed shares and government securities and withdrawal of money market placements and peso deposits.

For the first 10 months of the year, fresh foreign portfolio investments amounted to $13.4 billion as against capital outflows of $9.7 billion.

"The generally upbeat outlook on the domestic economy sustained the positive investor sentiment," Tetangco said. Gross investments in PSE-listed shares amounted to $8.1 billion for the 10-month period, accounting for 60 percent of total. Property, telecommunications, utility and holding firms captured about 74 percent of investments in these shares. Peso-denominated gov-

SEE NET INVESTMENTS, B2

Currencies



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

Stock Market

Bearish trading seen

SHARE PRICES ARE EXPECTED to track developments in the US market amid persistent fears relating to the subprime lending crisis there, analysts said.

They said the stock market ignored a widely expected 25-basis point cut in interest rates by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas last Thursday.

"The outlook for this week may be for further declines toward the 3,000 level. The market ignored a rate cut because that was largely expected already and net foreign selling last week was P7.3 billion," ... observed.

... after companies reported their third-quarter earnings and the BSP ...



PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

NOVEMBER

IN THIS ISSUE

No Free Lunch

Cielito F. Habito

Fearful forecasts?

Growth outlook

External drag

Domestic drivers

Risks and threats

Peso tempers rise of gasoline prices

BSP still mindful of local currency's impact on exports

Taiwan in dire need of RP sand, gravel

Narra Nickel bags 4 supply deals

Long-term contracts eyed

CANADIAN MINING FIRM MBMI Resources Inc. said its Philippine unit, Narra Nickel, has firmed up four supply deals with buyers from China, Australia and Japan for ores coming from its Alpha project in Palawan.

[illegible]



The SAI platform aims to improve the quality, safety and nutritional value of agricultural products.

Sustainable agriculture programs gain ground

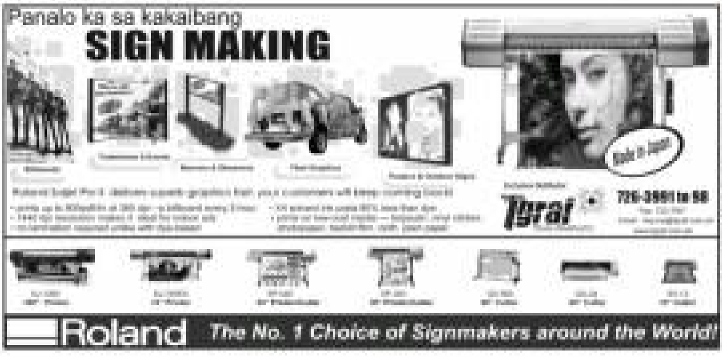
THE PROMOTION OF Sustainable Agriculture Initiative (SAI) [illegible]

[illegible]

DA seeks help of LGUs

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE is seeking the help of other agencies and local government units [illegible]

[illegible]



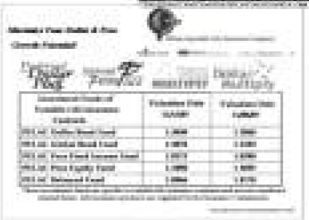
Tax leaks cost gov't ₱107B in '06

By Michelle V. Remo

BIR's tax collection woes said to be far from being resolved

Galoc fuels Otto's working capital

Net 'hot money' ...









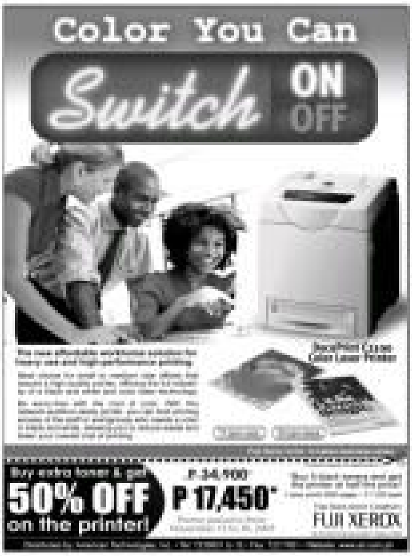




NATIONLINK EMPOWERS INTEGRATED ONLINE NETWORK FOR A UNITED RURAL BANK INDUSTRY

Metrobank eyes amnesty for ₱1-B DST liability

BIR firm on pursuing 'strong' cases vs delinquent banks



DA assures steady prices, supply of food for holidays

Foreign investments to boost GSIS finances



INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

Bank adopts new SME lending approach

Lending to small business short of requirement

[illegible]

Bearish . . .

[illegible]

BSP may ease bank branch cap

Monetary Board to review proposal

TKC ventures into mining

Utilities to abandon RORB scheme

No Free Lunch

DA seeks

CURRENCIES

Solid sees steady growth in 2008

High-growth markets eyed

By Elizabeth Ilarina-Lacson

CONSUMER ELECTRONICS and technology firm Solid Group Inc. sees steady growth in 2008 as it ventures into high-growth niche markets, marked by the rollout this year of its dual-sim mobile phones this year.

In an interview, Solid Group president David Lim said revenues would also be driven in 2008 by sales of its modern residential-condominium project in Ermita, Manila dubbed "Zen Towers." The first 200-unit tower will be turned over to the buyers in December.

"2008 will be a turning point for the Solid Group," Lim said.

Lim said Solid Group expects to book at least P4.5 billion in new revenues next year, to be driven largely by sales of its "myPhone" series of locally-sourced dual Sim phones and Zen Towers.

As of the first half of this year, Solid Group reported a revenue of P4.11 million.

Last September, Solid Group launched its myPhone models to compete with the ones sold by big players, including Nokia and Motorola.

In a month's time, the company sold 10,000 units, raking in P58 million in sales, even with little advertising.

The initial set of myPhones come in three models, the T11, T22-Duo and T33.

The T11, which sells for P6,999, is a single SIM multi-media touch screen phone that runs on a GPRS network and has a 1.3 megapixel camera. It has bluetooth technology, a webcam function and a built-in 1 (megabyte) MB user memory. For its multimedia features, it has an MP3 or MP4 player and video recorder.



T22-DUO

The T22-Duo, which is priced at P9,999, is the first dual active SIM phone with a larger memory of 2MB. It is also a touch screen phone with the same multimedia functions like the T11 and has two stereo speakers with 3D surround effect. It has a 2 megapixel camera and a micro flash memory card slot that could expand its memory up to 1 gigabyte (GB).

The top of the line model is the T33, which is a GPS (global positioning system or mapping device) pocket PC phone that sells for P18,999. It has a 50 MB user memory, a 2 megapixel camera, a flash memory card slot that could expand the memory to up to 2 GB and a touch screen with handwriting recognition. Its operating system is Windows Mobile 5 and could perform Word, Excel and Powerpoint functions.

InfoTech



Bringing notebook technology down to a child's level



Securing network from internal and external threats

Touch sensor system enhances LG's Viewty



Verzio introduces world's first 3G dual SIM handset in the country



Come to our Open House
on Nov. 21 (Wed.) and Nov. 23 (Fri.),
9 am to 10 pm.
Be on Top of a
friendly
World.
Career-friendly
Shopper-friendly
Family-friendly
Play-friendly
GREENBELT
EXCELSIOR
Pre-furnished Units for as Low as
₱12,988 a month
NO DOWN PAYMENT
The CP Group
Megaworld Corporation

BUSINESS Monday

Demand for Pinoys on the high seas swells



By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

ASK YOUNG Filipinos what they want to be when they grow up and they will likely answer doctor, lawyer and—especially these days—nurse.



THE SHIPPING industry presents many career opportunities for Filipinos



RP losing geologists, mining engineers



Making money out of something sweet and brown

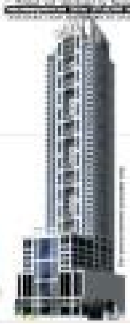
BUSINESS Monday



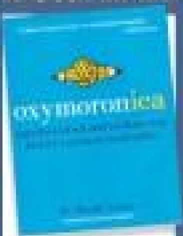
Making money out of something sweet and brown

See story on page B2-2

BUSINESS Monday



Learn from and enjoy life's contradictions



EXECUTIVE READ

"Oxymoronica"
By [illegible]
[illegible], 2004

By [illegible]
Contributor

IF YOU ARE EXASPERATED BY [illegible]

[illegible]

Profoundly true

[illegible]

LEARN B3-1



Business opportunities: Medical tourism

MAPping THE FUTURE

Alma Rita R. Jimenez

Dilemma

Medical Tourism

Retirement

Aging population

Baby boomers

Outsourcing opportunities

Health human resource provider



The Philippines can position itself as an ideal retirement destination

Business opportunities ...

Learn from and enjoy ...

LIFESTYLE

Editor: Chelo Banal-Formoso



MONDAY **ARTS & BOOKS** TUESDAY

Mom, *the artist*

Elaine Ongpin-Herbosa will have her first solo exhibit at Ayala Museum

By Mia O. Herbosa
Contributor

THEY TELL ME SAGITTARIUS women are strong, fiery and spirited. I should know; I was born of one and I gave birth to another. I'm literally sandwiched between them.

In truth, no one has ever taught me more in life than my 8-year-old daughter and my 64-year-old mother.

My mother is a strong woman. A force of nature, really, not so much physically but more in terms of energy, sheer guts, willpower, drive and determination. I have yet to meet anyone who compares. My child, Lana, is still young, but I already see traces of the divine energy.

God knows we all love our mothers. We see their image constantly evolve in our eyes—from fathers who need them in every way, to little kids who idolize their words and acts, to teenagers who want nothing more but to get away from them, and then to young adults who look to them for much-needed advice.

When we become parents ourselves, their image again changes to become more three-dimensional as we relate and ponder the decisions they made at similar points in their lives.

Many a time, we wonder what they would do if they were in our shoes today.

Worlds apart

My mother and I are like night and day. Low-energy and high-energy, yin and yang... I have always admired her, especially the sheer force of power she seems to bring with her wherever she went.

In fact, I always wished we had a sibling after me, so maybe those gifts which were so uniquely hers might be passed down. Sometimes, I think, instead of to her

PAGE C2

Aaron Bautista poses a problem to the viewer as his abstract artworks can also be seen as figurative


"CHROMESCAPE Series (Red)"


"CONCRETESCAPES Series"


"CONCRETE Perception"

Subverting *Nonobjective Art*


"FIELDS of Gold"


"CHROMESCAPE Series (Blue)"

By Constantino C. Tejero

WE KNOW NONOBJECTIVE Art does not attempt to represent the form of objects as they appear in nature. That is, the artwork does not contain anything resembling, portraying or representing objects known in physical nature.

[illegible]

Mom, the artist

From page C1

[illegible]


THE AUTHOR with mom Elaine and daughter Lora

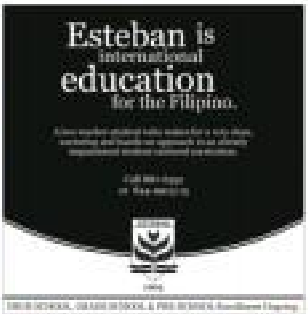

"IN THE Studio"

[illegible]









Very unique house museum

Philippine civilization

Quality and comfort



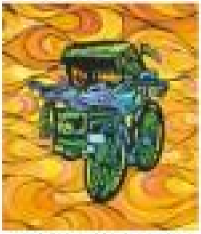
Educational value



'Kulay ug Kalinaw sa Mindanao' at Met Museum









PRIDE OF PLACE
Augusto Villalon

Very unique house museum

ENVISIONED BY THE LATE Bro. Andrew Gonzalez, FSC, former DLSU president, as an educational museum reflecting the vanished Spanish colonial lifestyle, Museo De La Salle on the sprawling Dasmariñas, Cavite, campus opened 10 years ago, housed in a modern-day replica of the traditional bahay na bato.

It could have been just another of the many house museums existing in the country. But it has carved an identity of its own.

The Museo, an imposing bahay na bato far larger in area and height than the traditional house, is so authentic-looking that it fools the eye because of the original antique materials and architectural details incorporated into the structure. It is actually a purpose-built replica of a typical period house transposed to a scale grander than the ordinary, which uplifts it from residential to palatial.

And palatial the museum is without question. Its succession of spacious rooms whose doors, windows and ceilings almost double the height of the normal, contain an outstanding collection of rare Philippine art, furniture, furnishings, decorative art and fashion from the Spanish colonial era.

VERY UNIQUE C2



GIRL'S room, with reddish framed pink walls, displays objects class of the era might have had.

PFIZER LAUNCHES ALAGANG SULIT

FAST turning into a common catchword, the term sulit has often been misconstrued for cheapness and affordability. With its latest patient support program, Pfizer aims to reinforce the true meaning of "Sulit."

This is the rationale behind the *Alagang Pfizer, Alagang Sulit* campaign, informally launched in May 2007 and recently unveiled to Filipino doctors and the public through print media and radio.

Alagang Sulit follows the success of the two-year *Dapat Sulit* campaign, which produced the award-winning *Kasal* television ad. Using the tagline "*Dahil mahalaga ang buhay, ang gamot dapat sulit*," the Pfizer campaign also included a series of symposia on what pharmacoeconomics actually means.

Pfizer Medical Director Dr. Anthony Leachon says, "We want to communicate what pharmacoeconomics really is. People have this false perception that it is about comparing prices when what it actually means is comparing benefits. We wanted to communicate what goes into every Pfizer pill that a patient purchases—from the clinical evidence to the assurance of quality and down to the patient care program that comes with it. Taken together, this makes for a higher value for a Pfizer medicine over other alternatives."

Alagang Sulit goes beyond explaining true value but introduces Pfizer's system of patient management. This system involves offering benefits to Pfizer patients on Pfizer maintenance medications to improve therapy adherence, building customer relationship through Pfizer's in-house call center and providing educational materials to patients to help them better understand their disease.

Dr. Leachon adds, "We believe that outcomes will be better if both doctors and patients are engaged in disease management. This is the value-added service that Pfizer patients receive: we don't just make medicines, we are interested in the long-term health outcomes of our patients, which can only be achieved by helping them understand their disease and adhere to prescribed therapy better. Pfizer has one of the more comprehensive patient programs, which distinguishes Pfizer's 'Alaga' as value-laden and relevant."

In partnership with the country's healthcare providers, the doctors, Pfizer undertakes patient care programs that offer meaningful solutions to health care quality and cost problems associated with chronic diseases. These programs provide enrolled patients with health information, health maintenance reminders and medicine compliance support. It is Pfizer's way of supporting patients who wish to actively overcome roadblocks to better health management.

ADVT



LIFESTYLE

Wilwayco in Singapore





COKE HERALDS THE COMING OF CHRISTMAS

Christmas is the most anticipated and celebrated occasion in every Filipino home. As early as when the "ber" months come around, indications of the coming Christmas season begin to surround us, drowning us all in an atmosphere of immense delight and gladness.

It is not surprising that Moms always make Christmas mealtimes special for the family – she adorns her home with beautiful Christmas décor, brings out her best dinnerware, painstakingly cooks the family's favorite dishes, and makes sure her family experiences the specialness of the occasion. Indeed, the gathering together during special occasions of every family member – from sons and daughters, to parents and grandparents, down to whole sets of cousins, aunts, uncles and even family friends – is what distinguishes Filipinos from the other peoples of the world.

Naturally, no Filipino Christmas table is truly complete without a bottle of ice-cold Coca-Cola Litro. For decades, Coke has been making every Filipino meal more special as it enhances the taste of our Christmas food, adds laughter to the conversations, and allows family members to catch up with each other. And to make Christmas even more exciting for every family, starting October 21, Coca-Cola will be rewarding, through its Coca-Cola Kasalo sa Pasko Promo, those moms who make Coke Litro part of their meals.

Consumers just need to buy Coke Litro and look under the cap to see if it's one of the winning Kasalo Caps. They have to present ONE (1) Winning Kasalo Cap plus FOUR (4) Red Litro Caps, to redeem their special Kasalo Spoon and Fork collectibles at participating sari-sari stores and public markets nationwide.

With sets of Kasalo Spoons and Forks, Coke Litro, and all your special Christmas treats, you're sure to have a splendid dining table that sings and dances in a medley of tastes, smells and colors!

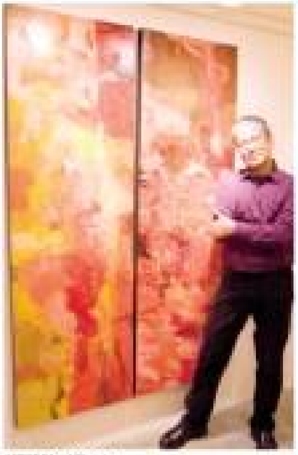
Now you top everything off with the love and laughter that comes from your family and the thought that Coke will be bringing you even more surprises this season and what you'll have indeed is the merriest Christmas celebration in the whole world.









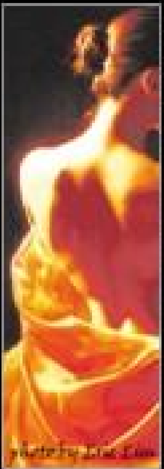


Wilwayco in Singapore





Annual photo exhibit







Filipino artworks a hit in Singapore auction

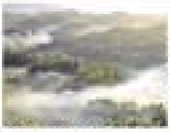




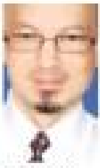
Tribute to 5 photojournalists

Photo exhibit at LRI Design Plaza





10 secrets to wealth and success



AL SEMBRANO



INTERNATIONAL MUSIC FESTIVAL AT SAN AGUSTIN CHURCH

An exhibit by friends

UP Diliman literary symposium Nov. 22-24



ST. LUKE'S RECEIVES PAINTING

VISUAL ARTS



Casol at The Drawing Room

Luz at Crucible

Magpantay at Artes Orientes

Dingdinan at Eastwood



TAM Austria and his family are welcomed by Ambassador Virginia Benavides at the Philippine embassy in Brunei Darussalam. In photo are Consul Raymund Escalona, Monica Escalona, Jaime Escalon, Monica Escalon, Ambassador Luis Escalon, Ambassador Benavides, the artist, consul Ramon Escalon, Isabel Zoryco, Alma Regala, Bella Grande, Divine Austria and Sello Bagario.

Malang, Cara, Cruz show



"HABITAT (Series of 4)," by Alfredo Juan Aquilizan

Aquilizan at Duemila

Bagoion at Boston Gallery

Payawal at Hiraya

Workshops at Magnet

Pottery fest in Greenbelt

Villanueva and Feleo at National Museum

Group exhibit

Aguilar at ArtistSpace

Photo exhibit

Sunco at Ayala

LIFESTYLE



Tales as old as time, now retold in song

New Voice Company's production of the Stephen Sondheim musical "Into the Woods" opened a weekend ago at the Music Museum with tremendous verve, expressiveness and artistry

Dark and complex



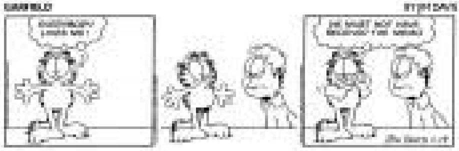
A-LIPIN



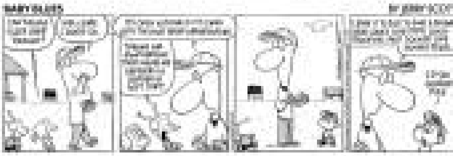
PUGAD BABOY



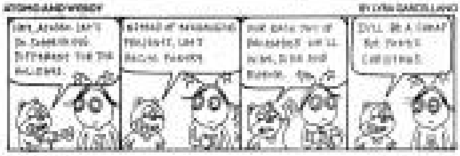
GARFIELD



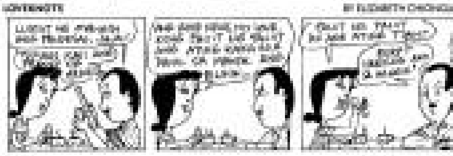
BABY BLUES



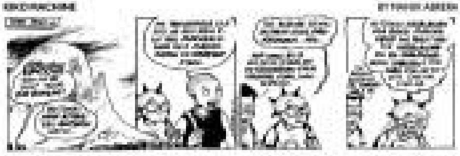
ATOMS AND WEEZY



LOVENOTES



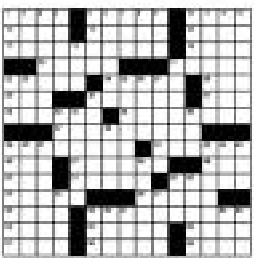
KIKO MACHINE

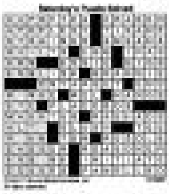


BEN



DAILY CROSSWORD





HOROSCOPE

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

8		2	9	6	7	4		
	4			1		7		
5							9	6
6					9			4
1	7						5	8
2			4					7
3	5							1
		9		2			4	
		1	3	7	8	5		9

Difficulty Level ●

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

2	9	7	4	3	6	8	5	1
8	6	5	7	1	2	9	3	4
1	3	4	[illegible]	9	8	7	2	6
3	5	2	6	8	4	1	9	7
6	1	9	2	7	3	4	8	5
4	7	8	1	5	9	3	6	2
9	4	6	8	2	7	5	1	3
5	2	3	9	4	1	6	7	8
7	8	1	3	6	5	2	4	9

Filipino play on maids opens in Singapore

By James P. Ong
Contributor



"The Tales of Three Marias" is written, directed and mounted by Singapore-based Filipino thespian and dramatist Jay Españo



First splash

Giving back





LYNN Sherman (center) as The Witch

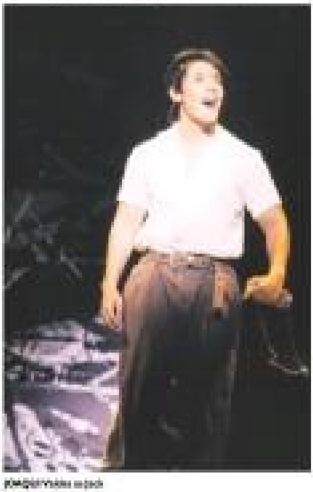
Tales as old as time, now retold in song



CATHY Alvarez as Cinderella

'Overgrown' book

Cast against type

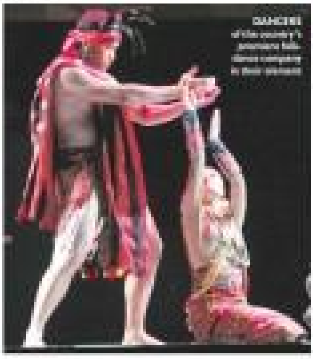


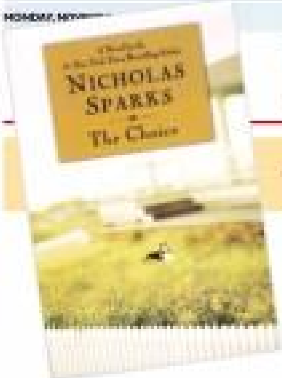


Centennial music awardees at St. Cecilia's Concert



Viva Bayanihan!





Too easy a 'Choice'

Nicholas Sparks' new novel is proof positive that his books have become the instant noodles of the fiction world

By Ruel S. De Vera

THAT THERE IS SO MUCH irony in Nicholas Sparks' newest novel, "The Choice" (Grand Central Publishing, New York, 2007, 272 pages), is ironic. Sparks has always been a most efficient but one-dimensional author, with his romances being all so similar and predictable.

For "The Choice" actually begins with these words: "Stories are as unique as the people who tell them, and the best stories are those in which the ending is a surprise."

Add to that the fact that "The Choice" is Sparks' 13th book, and is already a bestseller for [illegible], and you have a situation that is too much like the convenient coincidences that Sparks employs in his books. After all, Sparks has gained a massive following by crafting accessible tales about lovers with a twist, all wrapped in a thin book with a [illegible] obvious title.

In fact, three of his earliest books, "Message in a Bottle," "A Walk to Remember" and "The Notebook," were transformed into motion-picture tearjerkers, while a fourth, "Nights in Rodanthe," is forthcoming.

In many ways, Sparks is successful because his readers know what to expect from him. His romances have become comfortable and expected, in a way reflecting what one of "The Choice's" protagonists [illegible]: "He became timid about food in general, preferring plain and predictable to anything with exotic flavor... He was too afraid to change."

Unbelievable

Thus "The Choice" is vintage Sparks all the way, featuring two impossibly single people somehow crossing paths. Just how unbelievable is this book? The two main characters answer to the improbably attractive names Travis Parker and Gabby Holland, who become neighbors in the picturesque town of Beaufort, North Carolina.

Travis happens to be a handsome, [illegible] veterinarian with a loyal dog named Moby. The owner of a similarly loyal dog named Molly, Gabby is a sparkly beautiful physician's assistant who doesn't realize how beautiful she is. The two carry emotional baggage and, of course, are made for each other.

"Such sense that they were sitting across from a person who might change the course of their lives forever if they weren't careful," Sparks writes. Then, as always, something goes terribly wrong, and there is guilt, sorrow and faith to be dealt with.

Their story is told in two parts, over a decade apart, with the earlier portion over twice as long as the later chapter, something it has in common with "The Notebook."

The characters have the unnerving habit of breaking out into densely expository paragraphs. Readers familiar with Sparks' work will no doubt try to figure out early what this "choice" in the book's title is, and Sparks gamely throws them red herrings, but ultimately the aforementioned choice is exactly what most readers will think it is.

Pretty please

That's perhaps the most frustrating thing about Sparks' work: He knows how to keep those pages turning, and is capable of placing a pretty phrase right where it should be. As the first part of "The Choice" will show, he can whip up a fantastic romance full of delightful little details.

But his books have become so formulaic, so obvious that readers will be able to guess correctly every single plot twist before it happens. The biggest twist is so badly telegraphed that readers will be muttering to themselves as they turn the page: "You have got to be kidding me!"

Sparks fans who want to see more of the usual will not be disappointed by "The Choice."

In many ways, it is the perfect Sparks book, and it should come as no surprise that it is also a book that seems practically made for the movies. For other readers, it will be a trip down Memory Lane that they've memorized.

Even with franchises and series, readers should be challenged now and then, as those need to challenge them.

This particular choice is just too easy, too obvious, too preposterous to anyone who doesn't want the easy obvious and preposterous.

"The Choice" thus stands as proof positive that Nicholas Sparks' books have, indeed, become the instant noodles of the fiction world: Just add some sweetwords and you've got what you came for, even if it isn't really good for you.

Available in paperback at National Book Store.



MARILEX Realty Development Corporation chair Alex Prieto and daughter Tessa Prieto-Valdes



LUCIO Tan Group of Companies chair Lucio Tan with daughter Vivienne and granddaughters Francesca and Gaea

A toast to fathers

The book features a photo collection of 62 men plus touching personal stories related by their children



"OUR FATHER," by Jun de Leon

ACE PHOTOGRAPHER Jun de Leon's latest coffee-table book gives recognition to the unsung men in our lives: Daddy, Papa, Itay.

"Our Father," featuring a photo collection of 62 inspiring men including national leaders, businessmen, professionals, artists, actors, musicians and military, captures the beauty and quiet strength of a father's love through photographs and stories related by the subjects' children.

The 144-page book represents the fulfillment of a dream project De Leon conceptualized 15 years ago, during a time when he was painfully separated from his then 5-year-old daughter Bina.

He recalls: "Nothing in the world, not even the growing recognition of my identity as a photographer, could quell the overwhelming pain of separation."

He sought to find the father image through doing what he did best: taking photographs of fathers.

The "Dear Nina Project," as he called it, didn't pan out at the time and was shelved.

Through the years, De Leon eventually developed close relationships with his children. With renewed passion, and finding supportive partners in Cleo Publishing, the lensman revisited his dream project this year.

For "Our Father," he squeezed in as many as four photo shoots a day, mindful of the time and place. The enthusiast shows another side of him, this time as a father and a storyteller sharing common ground with his subjects.

The 12x15-inch hardbound collectible photography book comes with an audio CD containing a song dedicated to all fathers, performed by Martin Nievera and arranged by Louie Ocampo.

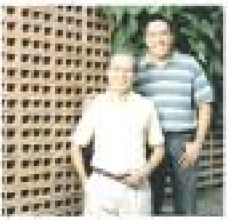
Fathers featured in the glossy pages of the book are: Noel Alba, Butch Albert, Edgar Ang, Joey Antonio, Benny Aquino Jr. (deceased), Jaime Ayala, ... Bengzon, Andy Bautista, ... Belmonte, ... Bernabe, ... Buenafe, ... Cabochan, Angel Colmenares, Joey Concepcion, RC Constantino, FF Cruz, Philip Co-ngiong, Art de Castro, Freddie Dy, ... Dy, ... Elizalde, ... Enriquez, ... Esteban, Raymond Fernandez, Mark Gan, David Consunji, Juan Gallardo, ... Henares, Robert Ho, Roland Hernandez, Butch Jimenez, Adolfo Kuo, Michel Lhuillier, Jaime Lim, Gabby Lopez, Gaffy Ledesma, Bernie Manalo, ... Melian, ... Mohtasib, Eli Mapalo, Martin Nievera, Sonny Ocampo, Bobbi Padilla, ... Paterno, Ramon Paje, Jun Prieto, Alex Prieto, Charlie Ramos, Joel Rocha, Mark Santos, ... Sison, Lucio Tan, ... Tanjangco, ... Tarrosa, ... Teehankee Jr., Dely Valenciano, Eddie Villanueva, Manny Villar and Buddy Zamora.



JIGS Mohtasib with twins Rauha and Andrea



FF Cruz and Co. Inc. founder FF Cruz with son Philip and grandsons ... and ...



BATAAN Rep. ... Party List Representative Baltazar Ocampo with son Bobby

The life of a pastor uncovered

"Alfredo Verzosa, Obispo" Missionary Catechists of the Sacred Heart and Fr Louie Jose 2007, 221 pages

ONCE, SEMINARIAN LOUIE Jose was playing a memory slot in Vigan's Cathedral of the Conversion of St. Paul when he happened upon a marker declaring that a bishop of Lipa, Batangas, was there entombed, along with the mortal remains of an Ilocano prelate.

Jose's initial wonder regarding the reason behind this bishop's exile far from his territorial jurisdiction would become a full-blown investigation covering hundreds of miles and over half a decade of painstaking research.

The result, Jose's theologate thesis, is now the biography "Alfredo Verzosa, Obispo," which he published together with the Missionary Catechists of the Sacred Heart.

Jose, now a priest of the Lipa diocese, takes the reader back to times of upheaval, in the story of Verzosa, a member of Vigan's old aristocracy, begins toward the turn of the last century and ends after the World War II.

In a country central to the spread of Catholicism in Asia, Batangas and the Ilocos Region played substantial roles. Verzosa, the fourth Filipino Roman Catholic bishop and the first from the Ilocos, was one of the first wave of Filipino priests elevated to the episcopacy. He led the opening prayer during the convention that formulated the Philippine Constitution of 1935.

Fiery orator

Verzosa was actively involved with several religious orders and movements in pursuit of his ministry. In the Ilocos, his contemporaries included Isabelo de los Reyes and Gregorio Aglipay.

The young Fr. Verzosa, who was a fiery orator and prolific author of catechetical material, is said to have successfully countered the Ilocano schismatic movement while assigned at the Augustinian-held parish of Paoay in Ilocos Sur.

After being named bishop, he brought the Missionaries of the Divine Word (SVDs), Carmelites, Redemptorists, and the Daughters of St. Paul to Lipa. Jose credits him with inviting the Maiden Adoration, more popularly known as the Pink Sisters, to come to the Philippines. The Pink Sisters first settled in Lipa in 1923.

In the same year, the Vatican approved Verzosa's founding of the Congregation of the Blessed Virgin Mary for Christian education, now the Missionary Catechists of the Sacred Heart.

Under his watch, the young diocese also saw the rise of Catholic educational institutions, including at least four intradiocesan seminaries, even during the war. It is an unprecedented feat unmatched until now.

For this, Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales describes him as a "mentor of priests." Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal was a product of this formation done by Bishop Verzosa.

Lipa 'miracles'

The Lipa of Verzosa's time, affirms Cardinal Rosales in the foreword, was an exceptional local Church. Jose inevitably touches on the circumstances surrounding the alleged Lipa apparitions of the Virgin Mary to Carmelite novice Teresita Castillo in 1948, which happened toward the end of Verzosa's ministry in the diocese.

He doubts, however, that this led to the bishop's involuntary resignation in 1950, citing accounts of the bishop's prudence in managing the situation. Today, the "miracles" are officially discredited following a Church commission's investigation, although there are efforts to reopen the case.

Jose's book also provides information on the formation and restructuring of dioceses (territorial divisions of the Catholic Church); the building of notable churches and seminaries; the movement of the ecclesiastical hierarchy and major religious orders such as the Dominicans and Jesuits in the Philippines; as well as the ravaging effects of World War II on the Church.

But more than a show of Ilocano pride in the life and legacy of Verzosa, "Obispo" gives readers valuable insights into the workings of Church policy, politics and a glorious ministry, as well as a glimpse of Philippine history.

"Alfredo Verzosa, Obispo" was printed by the Regalo del Sol Printers, the magazine, run out the Missionary Catechists of the Sacred Heart.



New 'Sarabihon'

THE FIFTH VOLUME OF "Sarabihon," a journal for Sorsogon studies, is off the press.

Published by the Sorsogon Heritage Society, an association of researchers, artists, and journalists, the issue carries articles by Francisco Dans on faith, community and Sorsogon; ... on the first Mass in Luzon (claimed to be first celebrated in Magallanes); folklore studies on ... rhymes by Anacorita G. Ocampo; and verbal ... by Minerva Malubay and Cecilia Carmi-Rosales.

It also features Eugenio Dones Apostol's acceptance speech of the Ramon Magsaysay Award and ... Jose Rizal Lecture delivered at the national conference of the Philippine Center of International PEN, as well as Unit... and keynote address at the same forum.



The issue also carries personal essays, poems by ... Mella, a short story by ... and the never before published ... "Inglatera sa Bamang Tiniluod" by ... Jimenez, the master storyteller of Sorsogon.

The Society wishes to announce that "Sarabihon Vol. 1," long out of print, is now available, and that Vol. 6 will be out this month.

National Book Week Nov. 24-30

THE NATION OBSERVES THE 73rd National Book Week on Nov. 24-30, as mandated by Proclamation No. 108, signed in 1936.

This year's theme is "Family Literacy: Reading Begins with Us."

The Philippine Librarians Association Inc. (PLAI), in cooperation with The National Library (TNL), will spearhead various activities during the week-long observance, among them: an outreach program at Baseco community, Tondo, Manila on Nov. 23; fun walk and book-character parade around Rizal Park; and a formal opening ceremony with Adel A. Tamano, Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila president, as guest speaker at The National Library on Nov. 26.

A fellowship-luncheon will be held at ... Restaurant, T.M. Kalaw, Ermita, Manila, on Nov. 30. Call ... loc. 229 and 5258956.

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Maningning: Luminous poetry and music

By Marjorie Evasco
Contributor

EVERY 29TH OF SEPTEMBER is marked in our calendars as a day of remembering poet-painter Maningning Miclat.

But life and art continue to bring us today the light of poetry and painting through the young men and women, 20 years and below, who win in the annual competition organized by the Maningning Miclat Art Foundation, Inc. (MMAFI).

This year, the competition was for poetry in the three languages Maningning Miclat herself wrote: Chinese, Filipino and English.

The awards ceremony was held at Pinkseeds Theater on U.P. Avenue in a program that celebrated the works of the prizewinners: Chen Xiyuan (for Chinese), Erika Clarin de los Reyes (for Filipino) and Raymund John de Borja (for English), as well as the songs of three of the country's best singers: Cynthia Alexander, Susan Fernandez and Gail Valencia.

Fermin T. [illegible], MMAFI president, opened the program and honored the memory of Maningning as "a brilliant and multi-awarded artist and bilingual poet and writer, teacher and translator who passed away on Sept. 29, 2000."

Each of the poets in the three-language categories received a check of P20,000, a trophy sculpted by Julie Lluch called "Maningning", and hardbound collector's editions of "Voice from the Underworld: A Book of Poems" in three languages by Maningning Miclat, "Beauty for Ashes: Remembering Maningning", and "Beyond the Great Wall: A Family Journal" by Mario, Alma, Banaue and Maningning Miclat, which recently won a National Book Award for biography from the Manila Critics Circle.



THE AUTHOR with Marc Anthony Cayonan, honorable mention in the English Division

Important service

Xiyuan, a Chinese Literature student in a university of Guangdong Province of China, came to receive her prize from MMAFI executive director Alma Miclat, Maningning's mother, who was accompanied onstage by the judges for the Poetry in Chinese, namely James Na, [illegible] Yi and Shirley Lua.

Xiyuan read her poem in Mandarin. Lua, who translated the poem into English, read her translation of "Cold Spring."

Honorable mention went to Chen Wei and Zhang Hui Chao, both from Guangdong Province.

When the three young poetry winners stood onstage together, it was clear Maningning Miclat's gifts were bearing good fruit

De los Reyes, a BS Management student of Ateneo de Manila University, received her prize from National Artist for Literature Virgilio Almario and the judges for the Poetry in Filipino category: [illegible], [illegible] and Michael Coroza.

Her poem, titled "[illegible]," from the collection "[illegible]," was read by [illegible] of De La Salle LB.

Honorable mention was given to Mark Anthony Angeles and Carlos [illegible] III.

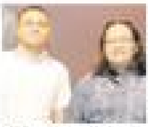
De Borja, a BS Electronics and Communications student of University of the Philippines, received his prize from National Artist for Literature Bienvenido Lumbera and MMAFI board director Edna Manlapaz, together with judges Marjorie Evasco, Neil Garcia and Joel Toledo.

His poem "Uncertainty Principle," from the collection "Field Effect," was read by [illegible], also of [illegible] LP.

Honorable mention went to Marc Anthony Cayonan and Joy Anne Icayan.

When the three young winners stood onstage together, it was clear Maningning's gifts were bearing good fruit and the foundation named in her honor is doing an important service to the arts, not only in the Philippines but also in Asia.

MMAFI received poetry entries not only from all over the Philippines but also from Guangdong, Shanxi, Gansu, Fujian and Zhejiang Provinces of China, and from Vietnam.



WINNERS Raymund John De Borja (English poetry) and Erika Clarin de los Reyes (Filipino poetry)

Haunting songs

Singer-composer Alexander sang her own compositions and arrangements such as the haunting "Ginugunita Kita," from the poems of Maningning in "Voice from the Underworld."

Fernandez continued with her musicality Filipino songs based on poems she remembers Maningning loved, particularly "[illegible]," a poem by [illegible] and arranged by [illegible] Fernandez.

Valencia performed the memorable lullaby "Ugoy ng Duyan" by Lucio San Pedro in a medley arrangement with "[illegible]."

For a rousing finale, the three sang a poem by Maningning, "[illegible]," set to music by Joey Ayala and arranged by Alexander.

The whole program, seamless and breathtaking, was superbly directed by Joel [illegible] and her assistant, Geraldine [illegible].

Mario Miclat, Maningning's father and MMAFI board director, closed the evening's feast of poetry and music, recalling for all of us the moments that led to Maningning's death seven years ago. He read this excerpt from his essay included in the book "Fallen Cradle" (Eds. Agnes Prieto and Ricardo de Ungria, Anvil, 2005).

How does one turn pain into beauty? "Maningning: An Evening of Poetry and Music" provided for every one of us a tangible, luminous answer.



NATIONAL Artists Virgilio Almario and Bien Lumbera with MMAFI executive director Alma Miclat and Chen Xiyuan, Chinese poetry winner (second from right)

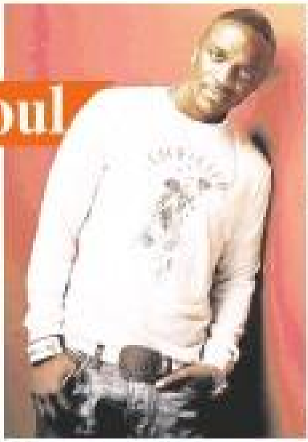


SINGER-COMPOSERS Gail Valencia, Susan Fernandez and Cynthia Alexander

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor: Emmie G. Velarde

Akon, heart and soul



By Pocholo Concepcion

AKON BROKE INTO the scene only in 2004, and yet the Senegalese-American singer-songwriter has become so hot that he headlined a spot at the all-star "Live Earth" concerts early this year.

But what's more amazing is that he's performing on Nov. 20 at the Araneta Coliseum. Either the local concert promoter is a good negotiator or Akon himself is such a cool dude that he agreed to come to Manila at this point of his career.

It's difficult not to like his music, although the way he [illegible] on the cover of his second album "Konvicted" (SRC) can be intimidating. this doesn't hide the fact that he spent five years in jail for armed robbery and drug dealing. But whatever negative notion that springs from this thug image dissipates as the songs start playing.

Akon must really have high credentials in the industry. How else can one explain the presence of rap royalty like Eminem and Snoop Dogg on two tracks in "Konvicted"?

The thing is that Akon can't be described outright as a hip hop artist. But definitely he's got soul and his songs lean heavily on R&B. And there's one cut, "Mama Africa," which [illegible]

The biggest factor that makes Akon such a big worldwide hit (more than 5 million copies of "Konvicted" sold) is his wonderful ear for melody that wafts through his smooth, engaging voice. "Silky" is how some critics have described those vocals, which somehow soften some of the rough subjects in the album.

It's hard to comprehend what he's saying in some tracks (no lyric sheet provided), but apparently the first three tracks, "Shakedown," "Blown Away" and "Smack That" are direct experiences [illegible] 15-year-old [illegible] to criminal activities. The scene [illegible]

AKON/G8

Akon, heart . . .

From page G1

portrayed in "Shakedown," for instance, recalls the times he would get caught by the police. And "Smack That," featuring Eminem doing some fluid rapping, is almost the probe of the gangsta life, such as women falling all over him because he's got a nice car and loads of cash.

Cliché as these may seem, it's the melody and Akon's great singing voice that account for these songs' popularity.

Even the love songs are shocking in their explicit language. What appears on the song title as "I Wanna Love You" is actually "I Wanna F_ _k You"—in which Akon figures in a seduction scene with a stripper in some club, and with Snoop Dogg guesting on rap vocals. What's funny is that it doesn't sound a bit repulsive because Akon's singing is oh, so mature.

It's not all harsh and profane, though. "The Sun" and "Never Took the Time" border on the sentimental, with Akon describing depression with the weather and regret over lost love, respectively. "Mama Africa" is a tribute to the black man's homeland, made more pleasant with a surprising reggae arrangement.

But if there's one sole reason for Akon's mass acceptance among our local youth, it has to be the song "Don't Matter" which ends this 13-track CD.

We remember DJ Mo Twister promoting it heavily during his early morning radio program several months ago, and hearing it every day helped bring across the message that Akon really knows how to craft hooks for a great pop song.

The lyrics are quite simple and, again, full of clichés ("Nobody wanna see us together/ But it don't matter, no/ 'Cause I got you ..."). Yet they don't appear as drawbacks, since [illegible] this [illegible] charming way of singing.

Akon looks rough and mean, but he's got charm that makes dangerous sound like fun.



Bea Alonzo and John Lloyd Cruz

'One More Chance' gets a 'B'

By Marinel R. Cruz

CATHY GARCIA MOLINA'S "One More Chance" has received a "B" rating from the Cinema Evaluation Board (CEB) for the "very good and sensitive" performance rendered by its lead actors, John Lloyd Cruz and Bea Alonzo.

"They have graduated from their bubble-gummy roles and can really be considered serious actors now," a CEB member said of the actors during the deliberations last week.

An "A" grade entitles a movie to a 100 percent tax rebate while a "B" enjoys a 65-percent discount.

"Cruz and Alonzo displayed joy and pain so beautifully in their adventures and actions," another CEB member said. "The two are more natural in tackling mature roles than when they do pa-cute characters."

In the movie, Popoy (Cruz) and Basha (Alonzo) are inseparable since they met and fell in love as students in a university.

But what seems to be a perfect relationship turns sour and leads to a very painful breakup.

The Board also commended the performance of newcomer Maja Salvador, who despite her limited scenes in the movie is "most sensitive and effective."

"She breezes over her role as effortlessly and as naturally as possible. Happiness and suffering are clearly seen on her face, in her action, in her words," a CEB member said.

The Board members were also impressed with director Molina's work, noting that she "took pains and succeeded in restraining the film from becoming too mushy and cheesy."

"Of course," says another critic, "the intelligently crafted screenplay by Vanessa Valdez and Carmi Raymundo helped in making 'One More Chance' a beautiful film."

CEB chair Christine Dayrit said the movie would have gotten an "A" had its editing been "tighter" and its cinematography more "focused."

But the production design is "beautiful and attractive," the scoring and sound are "just right — nothing garish or obstructive, nothing intruding," the Board noted.

The movie also stars Derek Ramsay, Dimples Romana, Bea Saw, Janus del Prado and James Blanco.

AT THE CINEMAS

Cinema				
GLORIETTA 1	1 THE KINGDOM	2 BEOWULF	3 FRED CLAUS	4 ONE MORE CHANCE
GLORIETTA 4	1 FRED CLAUS	2 THE KINGDOM	3 BEOWULF	
	4 SUPER BAD	5 THE GAME PLAN	6 ONE MORE CHANCE	7 THE NANNY DIARIES
GREENBELT 1	1 ONE MORE CHANCE	2 BEOWULF		
GREENBELT 3	1 THE KINGDOM	2 BEOWULF		
	3 FRED CLAUS	4 SUPER BAD	5 THE NANNY DIARIES	
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 BEOWULF	2 THE NANNY DIARIES		
	3 THE KINGDOM	4 SUPER BAD	5 FRED CLAUS	
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 BEOWULF	2 SUPER BAD	3 ONE MORE CHANCE	4 BALLS OF FURY
MARKET! MARKET!	1 ONE MORE CHANCE	2 FRED CLAUS		
	3 SUPER BAD	4 BEOWULF	5 THE KINGDOM	
TRINOMA	1 ONE MORE CHANCE	2 THE NANNY DIARIES	3 FRED CLAUS	4 THE KINGDOM
	5 THE GAME PLAN	6 SUPER BAD	7 BEOWULF	

AT THE MALLS

Mall	Event
Glorietta	Sounds of Christmas: Christmas Chorale, November 24, Glorietta 4 Park
Greenbelt	Holiday Open Concert, Greenbelt 3 Park
Alabang Town Center	Activity Center
Ayala Center Cebu	Activity Center
Market! Market!	Lifestyle and Vanity Outlet Sale, Activity Center
Cinemagica	FOOLER ON THE ROOF, November 8 - December 16, 2007
Ayala Museum	
TriNoma	Rhythm Academy, Activity Center

Enchanting Patrick Dempsey

By Joyce Susan R. Nepales
Contributor

LOS ANGELES—Everything they said about Patrick "Mc-Dreamy" Dempsey's style and reputation are true.

Sharply dressed in an all-black Paul Smith outfit, Dempsey walked into a room full of journalists with his sexy unshaven look, killer smile and dreamy eyes.

To make matters worse, or should we say "sinful" especially to all the married and committed reporters, Dempsey turned out to be a true charmer and wonderful storyteller.

This writer was the lucky recipient of a wedge hug and a [illegible] when he demonstrated to us how he and "Enchanted" co-star Amy Adams (Princess Giselle) had to learn a ballroom dance in the Disney fairytale cum modern-day New York City love story.

"It was simply magical," Dempsey described the Kevin Lima-directed romantic comedy where he portrays the handsome, no-nonsense divorce lawyer, Robert Phillip.

Of the Robert Phillip role, Dempsey exclaimed, "I still cannot believe I have a doll!"

This actor with Irish heritage, a Golden Globe nominee for his popular neurosurgeon role of Dr. Derek Shepherd in the drama "Grey's Anatomy," found doing the Disney movie a refreshing break from his "McDreamy" TV role.

Nonviolent role

"I thought it was a great opportunity to do something different," he said. "I like the fact that it was nonviolent because we already have too much violence in this world. I also like the idea of the guy taking care of his daughter by himself, without a wife."

The movie, which also casts James Marsden (Prince Edward), Susan Sarandon (Queen Narissa), Timothy Spall (Nathaniel) and Idina Menzel (Nancy Tremaine), is the story of a princess from Andalasia who suddenly lands in the middle of New York City's Times Square on her wedding day.

"The witty combination of animation, real life adventure, musical comedy and love story makes 'Enchanted' one of those fun, magical movies I would love to take my kids to see," Dempsey disclosed.

He is married to makeup artist and founder of Delux Beauty, Jillian Fink. They have three children—five-year-old daughter Tallulah Fyfe and nine-month-old twin boys Darby Galen and Sullivan Patrick.

Second sexiest

Coming in second to another family man, Matt Damon, in this year's People Magazine "Sexiest Man Alive" poll, Dempsey is also as human as any other charming man. He explained how he stepped on Amy Adams' foot and ripped her toenails off while shooting "Enchanted."

He narrated: "When we were doing the dance scene, Amy, who was a ballerina, would not allow me to lead her. Then one time, she took off her shoes because they were giving her blisters. She danced barefoot with me and I accidentally stepped on her foot and ripped off her toenails. She was wounded! So Kevin (Lima) told her that she should let me lead her and I should start leading in order to get what we wanted. We did exactly that and Amy started to look at me, too, while we danced and from then on, everything went smoothly."

Their chemistry is so good, viewers would think they have been working with each other for a long time. It was actually their first time to be paired in a movie.

"Amy is very talented, absolutely brilliant and smart. It is fascinating to watch her turn from fairytale princess to real-life Manhattan girl," the 41-year-old Dempsey said.

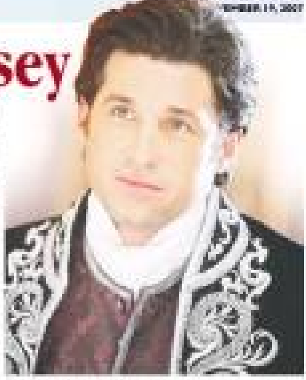
As for working with the legendary Susan Sarandon, Dempsey admitted, "I was amazed how easy it was to work with Susan. She was down-to-earth and was just one of the guys. One time, she brought a tequila bottle to the set and asked us to have tequila shots since 'it's Friday!' I love her because she is not at all self-conscious. It is really interesting to note that the more successful people are, the more normal they are."

Private tutor

Dempsey, who also appeared in "The Emperor's Club" and "Freedom Writers," enjoyed dancing in the movie. "I took some lessons in ballroom dancing at the Arthur Murray Dance Studio. [illegible] Kelly once tutored me privately," he said with a smile. "I am just glad though that I wasn't asked to sing in the movie."

With a wink, he added, "I am supposed to be one of the 'real' guys and normally, real people don't just break into a song."

So, I thought, real guys just become green with envy with McDreamy.



PRINCE CHARMING. Patrick plays a princess' man in every book romance given a modern twist.



WITH Amy Adams, who plays Princess Giselle, in "Enchanted"

ENTERTAINMENT

INSIDE
- 'Shall We Dance' turns two /H2
- Game shows duel Viewfinder /H4



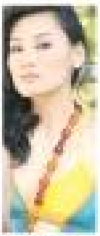
Erring celebrities owe the public an apology

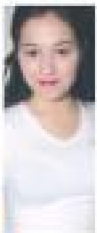
DOLLY WOOD



Dolly Anne Carvajal

Waiting for a promise





CARLENE Aguilar CRISTINE Reyes

Slander of unjust vexation

How true!





PBB ALUMNA Chin Alcala and JR Gonzaga do the rhumba.



MALOU Crisologo vamps it up with Jeffrey Ducis.



HOST Dominic Ochoa, right, chats with Jojit Cabarrios and Joe Rinto.

Grace under pressure

ABC 5 dance show marks second year against all odds

By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Photos by Magno de la Cruz

HOST LUCY TORRES SAYS reporting for work in faraway Novaliches for the ABC 5 celebrity contest "Shall We Dance" (SWD), which marks its second year this month, is like coming home.

She describes the show's cast and crew as a "small, closely knit team." For the past two years, they have become tight like a family.

Co-host Arnell Ignacio agrees: "It's difficult to put up a show if the staffers and the stars don't know each other. If there's a problem, we easily solve it because we're a team. We all enjoy doing the show."

According to co-host Dominic Ochoa, he doesn't consider work on the set as burdensome. "Even though the ABC 5 studio is so [illegible] away from my home in the suburbs, I still look forward to our tapings."

For international dance sport champion and judge Edmèe Ledesma, everyone—from the hosts to director Rich Ilustre—works hard to make the show "glamorous and fast paced."

Judge Regine Tolentino says they all want what's best for the show, acknowledging that each member of the SWD team is willing to go the extra mile for the program.

Tolentino is a good example. Apart from her duties as juror, she has also been acting as costumer for the celebrity contestants and for Torres for their dance numbers since day one.

"Every taping day is like a 'Project Runway' race for me," says Tolentino of the hectic pace of making the costumes, comparing it to a US reality show's fashion competition. "It really pushes me to the limit. Sometimes the stars can only do fittings the night before. Sometimes I don't even know their measurements so I have to guess and whip up something from scratch."

It's about grace under pressure, Tolentino adds.

At the time of the Inquirer visit, Tolentino had to rush backstage and sew up the dress of celebrity contestant Chin Alcala.

Tolentino says her goal is to highlight the contestants' assets, so they can feel like a different person while dancing.

A big challenge was dressing up the show's heavyweight contestants Malou Crisologo, Marissa Sanchez and Eddie Garcia Jr. Crisologo eventually emerged as champ.

"This program allows me to show off my skills and develop my creativity," Tolentino says.

The contestants are similarly put to the test.

"They're all hard working and eager to unveil their hidden talent," Tolentino adds.

Ledesma says they want to show "the other side of celebrities."

Ongoing is the dance showdown among pop singers Nyoy and Nina and comedienne Tessie Tomas Vargas.

Judge Audie Gemora recalls that initially some celebrities took rehearsals for granted. "But later they realized that they had to take it seriously. Otherwise, they'd end up looking foolish."

Ledesma observes that the stars' commitment have yielded positive results.

"They put in a lot of work and their performances are always amazing," she says. Some not only lost weight, they also acquire discipline. Some rehearse beyond the usual three to four hours per week. They have developed appreciation and respect for dance."

Gemora commends plus-size contestants Crisologo and Sanchez. "Even if they were disadvantaged because of their weight, they still showed viewers that they could be graceful. Malou vamped it up. Marissa did splits. They are good dancers."



HOSTS Arnell Ignacio and Lucy Torres rehearse their spiels between takes.



PBB TEEN star Mikee Lee dances up a storm with partner Roxie Trinidad.



REGINE Tolentino and her assistant fuss over Chin Alcala's skirt in the dressing room.



LUCY Torres takes a coffee break on the set.



REALITY stars, from left, Elmo Moreno with Victoria Dancel, Mikee Lee with Roxie Trinidad, and Chin Alcala with JR Gonzaga, in a dance showdown.



JUDGES Edmèe Ledesma, Audie Gemora and Regine Tolentino give the show and the celeb contestants high marks.

Erring celebrities . . .

From page H1

of his since his name isn't in the officer's credits. But would a renowned songwriter like Bridgman dare take credit for a composition that's not his own?

Savor Beaujolais

Join the revelry as La Club French Chamber of Commerce's 13th celebration of Sainte Beaujolais festival at Sofitel Philippine Plaza on Nov. 20 at 5:30 p.m. This year's theme is "Loire Valley Garden," which will take guests into the vineyards where Beaujolais Nouveau is sourced. The show's hosts are Johnny Litton and Tessa Prieto-Valdes, with guests The Moonfields and The Hodings. A whopping P1 million worth of raffle prizes are at stake. For tickets, call 8138088. Bonne la fete!

Staple location

For any romantic scene, Mikaley Jewels has become a staple location for Filipino filmmakers. The cast of "One More Chance" had fun shooting at the jewelry store's Trinoma branch. SVP for Marketing Christine Dayrit, who's also chairperson of the Cinema Evaluation Board, says that many show biz couples like [illegible] and the late FPJ got their wedding bands from her family's store.

'Sikil'

Temperatures will rise to the roost in the provocative film "Sikil" (New Life Cinema), which will have its Philippine premiere on Nov. 22 at the UP Film Center (5 and 7 p.m.). It is top-billed by Rossi Bernabe, Ken Escudero, Will Sandejas and Ashely Miranda. The uncut version is the lone Philippine entry in international film fests in Valencia, Cannes and Palm Spring. Sikil means to restrain. Catch it and see how long you can contain your hidden desires. What you resist will persist!

E-mail [illegible]

Splashy Vegas show

CHICAGO—Celine Dion said the supply that fuels the opera performing in her Las Vegas concert extravaganza were exciting, demanding and never boring.

The splashy show, which opened in March 2003 at Caesars Palace, will close Dec. 15.

"You know the crowd and the people there is different every night, to start with," Dion said on an episode of "The Oprah Winfrey Show" broadcast last week. AP

Entertainment



Battle of quiz and game shows

Viewfinder



Nestor U. Torre

Deciding factor

Successful format

Fast-paced show

"The Namesake"